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GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

After June 10th, the address of the Secretary will be Faculty Club, Berkeley, Calif., until July 30. Matters of routine, however, will be taken care of at Cambridge.

ANNUAL MEETING.—The Council having referred the determination of the place of the next annual meeting to the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee has voted that the meeting be held in connection with the annual meetings of the American Economic and Political Science Associations, which are expected to be in Pittsburgh near the end of December. A discussion of various matters in connection with the annual meeting will be found on a later page of this issue.

AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION.—The Educational Record for April, 1921, contains a statistical summary of the referendum conducted by the Council on a Federal Department of Education. The most important indications of opinion appear to be the following:

1. An overwhelming majority of the membership of the Council voting favors the creation of a department of education.
2. An almost equally large majority of the Council's membership believes that the Smith-Towner bill should be amended.
3. The amendment most generally favored is one providing for the inclusion of the Federal Board for Vocational Education in a new department from the outset.
4. Opinion is nearly evenly divided on the advisability of large Federal appropriations to the States on condition that the States match the appropriations.
5. A considerable majority favor the appointment of an advisory council by the Department of Education.

The Smith-Towner bill itself has lapsed with the outgoing Congress. A revised bill of the same general character has been since introduced, but apparently has less chance of favorable action than the new Administration Bill (Senate 1607), providing for a Department of Public Welfare, and including as its

main divisions, Education, Public Health, Social Service, and Veteran Relief.

The American Council voted to adhere to its preference for a separate department of education and not to endorse the bill for a Department of Public Welfare.

The annual meeting was held at Washington, May 6 and 7, with a good attendance. The meeting was devoted mainly to discussion of standardizing and accrediting methods and agencies, leading up to the adoption of the following recommendations:

- I. The Committee recommends that this conference approve the formulation of common statements of standards of higher educational institutions of the whole country—colleges, technological institutions, junior colleges, and institutions primarily for the training of teachers, for the following reasons:
 1. To remedy the existing diversity of standards and statements among standardizing agencies, and the confusion arising therefrom.
 2. To supply the lack of such statements in certain sections of the country.
 3. To aid associations and institutions now compelled to deal with students from all parts of the United States, and also State departments of education dealing with certification of teachers.
- II. It recommends that the Council request the U.S. Bureau of Education to publish at once a full statement of the present standards of the chief accrediting agencies now active, and a tabulation of the institutions accredited by these agencies.
- III. It recommends that the Council transmit from this conference to these agencies suggested unified statements of standards for various types of institutions, for discussion and report as to the possibility of the adoption of such statements by these agencies within the next two years, such unified statements to be drafted by a committee to be appointed by the Council, from the chief accrediting agencies.
- IV. It recommends that the conference approve the unification of the present lists by the same committee as soon as these various agencies can be brought into accord in the matter of common statements of minimum standards.
- V. It recommends that the Council serve as the coordinating agency for further conference, for formulation and for dissemination of definite common standards, and for promoting the unification here approved.

AN ENCOURAGING EXAMPLE.—

APRIL 22, 1921.

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE FACULTY,

Dear Sir,—I wish you would ask the Faculty whether in their judgment it might not be well to have a thorough conference with the President and the Trustees about the various functions, privileges, and duties of the Trustees, the President, the Dean, and the Faculty; about whether or not the Faculty might well be represented by someone of their own choosing on the Board of Trustees; about whether or not the Faculty ought to elect their own Dean and have a voice in the selection of their President; about whether or not the election or removal of a member of the Faculty ought to be subject to the veto of the Faculty; about the procedure whereby a man becomes a Professor with indeterminate tenure; about whether or not the Faculty should have a voice in the making of the budget; about whether or not the granting of honorary degrees should be a thing in which the Faculty should be consulted; and about other similar matters.

There are at present no recognized and official rules in these matters. We are living under an unwritten law which puts, in my judgment, entirely too much responsibility and power into the hands of the President. I try to administer things sanely and with due regard for the opinion of the Faculty; but there is at present nothing to ensure against dire results in case another President, or I myself, should lose balance and get arbitrary.

If the Faculty thinks that such matters need attention, I suggest that they write the Board between the date of the May Faculty meeting and the fifteenth of that month, requesting that these matters may be considered jointly by a committee of the Trustees, a committee from the Faculty, and the President.

Yours most sincerely,

(Signed) _____
President.

ÉCOLE DES HAUTES ÉTUDES MUSICALES.—A school of music for advanced American students has been established in Fontainebleau, under the control of the French Government.

Instruction, at first, will be given only during the three months of the summer session. If the undertaking proves successful the duration of the curriculum each year will be extended. The

hope is expressed that the institution will also develop into a school of painting, architecture, and sculpture.

BRITISH ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS.—A Committee of the American Council on Education makes the following recommendations:

“1. That students or graduates of Canadian institutions who are candidates for admission to undergraduate or graduate standing at colleges and universities in the United States be classified for purposes of admission as if they had studied at American higher institutions.

“2. That holders of the bachelor's degree from universities in England, Wales, and Ireland, and holders of the master's degree from universities in Scotland (the M.A. is the first degree at Scottish universities), be admitted to graduate registration in American universities, the status of each individual with reference to candidacy for a higher degree to be determined by the merits of his case.

“3. That holders of the bachelor's degree from universities in Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa and from government universities in India be admitted to graduate registration in American universities, the status of each individual with reference to candidacy for a higher degree to be determined by the merits of his case.

“4. That administrative officers should note that many holders of the bachelor's degree from institutions mentioned in paragraphs 2 and 3 may need to spend at least two years in preparation for the master's degree at an American university. But men who have graduated with high honors from universities in the British Isles and from some of the institutions noted in paragraph 3 will ordinarily proceed to the master's degree at an American institution in the minimum period.”